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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Rolf HEDDRICH, Hartmut HOYER and Wolfgang OERTEL  
PCT Application No.: PCT/EP00/05846  
Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
For : TRACK SUPPORT  
Art Unit : To Be Assigned  
Examiner : To Be Assigned

January 4, 2002

BOX PCT  
Hon. Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel the previous versions of the following claims and replace them with the following rewritten versions. Marked up copies showing the amendment since the previous versions are annexed as separate pages.

Q1  
Claim 1 (amended). Track support for the track of a magnetic levitation railway, comprised of a steel support, which is optionally fully welded in a fully automatic manner